

**Mecklenburg County
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Regular Meeting
April 25^h, 2019**

Members Present: Terri Stowers, Russell Price, Brittney Bagues, Dr. Cotrane Penn, Janelle Fleck, Sonya Harper, David Strickland, Wanda Douglas, Keith Cradle, Denise Steele-Campbell, Ebony Rao, Darrell Gregory, Kevin Poirier, Rev. Brenda Prince, Heather Taraska

Staff Present: Scott Stoker, Elizabeth Swann

Guests Present: Shavonda McClure-Tresports, Reggie McNeil- TYM-SHIFT, Cara Evans-Patterson-CMPD Youth Diversion, Glenn Smith-Life Connections-DASH, Darryl Bego-Youth Development Initiatives, Becky Smith-Thompson Child & Family Focus, Miriam Pearson-CMPD Youth Diversion, Monique Aquirio-Thompson, Nalo Coban-ASOP, Jonelle Giulianelli-DASH, Perla Castro -Thompson, Robert Reynolds-Tresports, Tommy Walls-Boys & Girls Club, Sergeant C. Pearson-MCSO, A. Melionyan-MCSO, Keesha Reynolds-CFA, Crystal Whitfield-TYM, Kristi Kenny-Thompson, Freida Brown-DASH-Life Connections, Alma Moore-DASH Life Connections, Chrissy Clarke-CFCR

Members Absent: Jessica Davis, Lt. Gene Lim, Pat Cotham, Scott Littlejohn, Beverly Dorn-Steele, Jana Savory

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by the Chair Terri Stowers. Quorum was established.

Review and Approval of April 25, 2019 Agenda:

Terri allowed council members to review the agenda. Darrell Gregory moved to accept the agenda. Brenda Prince seconded. The council unanimously approved the agenda.

Review and Approval of March 21st, 2019 Minutes: Terri allowed council members to review the minutes. Darrell Gregory moved to approve the minutes. Keith Cradle seconded. The council unanimously approved the minutes.

II. Action Item:

Thompson has removed the request for the budget revision

III. Report from the Funding Committee-Heather Taraska

Meeting was held on March 26th, 2019, the programs were scored, if there was a 3-point differential or more it was discussed, the average scores were totaled. Programs that acquired a score of 11 or higher were invited to present to the council. No scores were rounded. Three programs were not scored.

Announcements / Reminders

The attendance requirement is now 65% of all regularly scheduled committee meetings.

The inclusion of special and assigned subcommittee meetings is no longer applicable, its 65% of all regularly scheduled meetings. There are no excused absences. Members cannot miss three consecutive regularly scheduled committee meetings. To have action in the subcommittee meetings there must be a quorum to be able to vote.

Handouts were provided- RFP Presentations- Thompson Juvenile Court Assessment Program, Matt Simon, VP of Clinical Operations & Dr. Becky Smith, Court Psychologist

Thompson Juvenile Court Assessment Program- Matt Simon- Vice President of Clinical Operations

Thompson is committed to the long-term success of the In-Home Counseling program model in Mecklenburg county. Thompson strongly believes that mental/behavioral health is a public health issue and access to services should be based on necessity and not on a client's insurance/financial institution. Comprehensive Clinical Assessment (CCA): includes standard testing, clinical interview, collateral contacts, analysis of present & historical functioning to produce thoughtful, tangible recommendations for how to make an impact for youth with DJJ involvement. Thompson does referrals from juvenile court counselors, court ordered/judges, attorneys, JJSAMPH, GAL. Thompson also does psychological testing and consultation. *Thompson Court Assessment is requesting \$214,042 for FY19-20, 100 kids to be served, (increased with the FTE conversion), which 80+ of funding goes directly to program staff.*

Discussions: We can handle youths that speak different languages using an interpreter.

With Raise the Age coming in Dec 2019, how will it impact your services?

- ❖ We will have full time Mecklenburg Court Assessor which will allow Dr. Smith to respond to referrals quickly. Due to Raise the Age Assessment tools have been factor edinto the budget also.

Thompson in-Home Counseling Program- Matt Simon- Vice President of Clinical Operations

Thompson JCPC in-Home consoling is an innovation treatment for uninsured (or underinsured) JJ youth in Mecklenburg County who have behavior, emotional and family system needs that contribute to the delinquency. The program is comprised of one bilingual therapist and one bilingual case manager. Provides intervention in the home, community library, court, schools. The in-home team provides a minimum of 2 sessions/services per week. No maximum service time, Thompson attend court proceedings and advocate for the youth in court. *Thompson In-Home Counseling is requesting \$155,300 for FY19-20, 40 kids to be served, budget predominately pays for two FTE staff positions and associated travel/expenses.*

Discussions: With the referral process since your dealing with crisis as it relates to the juvenile, who is referring the youths to Thompson and if they will score high enough for the DJJ to validate JCPC funds paying for treatment.

- ❖ Thompson explain the youths all have some level of DJJ involvement, some are for YDC, Level II and Level III. With the DJJ population 70% will have Medicaid funding 20-25% will not. This service is for clients that clinically require the service but cannot afford to pay for it, for undocumented or underinsured juveniles.

Center for Advancement- Executive Director Keesha T. Reynolds, Board Chair- Kristen Thompson, Esq Attorney at Law, Program Fiscal Officer Shannon Coleman, CFA Volunteer-Gwen Thompson

The educational mission of CFA is to provide services that help keep youth maintained in the least restrictive environment. To improve student academic performance in the core content areas of reading and math; increase school connectedness; increase educational achievement and reduce inappropriate behaviors and discipline referrals. The LST component will assist court involved youth in staying clear of negative influence by keeping them engaged in over 650 hours of evidence-based curriculum and structured activities while simultaneously providing them with an opportunity to meet and interact with other positive peers. All staff and volunteers will be recruited and trained in cultural Competence and

the delivery of youth development services. A 15-passenger van provides free transportation during the school year from the school to the program location. *Center for Advancement is requesting \$145,954 for FY19-20, 50 kids to be served.*

Discussions:

What specific substance abuse services does CFA provide?

- ❖ It is a component with the life skills training which involves education.
- ❖ What type of program are you using for the substance abuse?
CFA is using the Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) and LST (Life Skills Training) for the substance abuse. Eventually all staff will be trained in Triple P, there is one person currently trained.
- ❖ The state average cost for interpersonal skills is \$1,516.00, CFA is \$4,448?
The JCPC amount would be \$2,919. The youth ages 6-15 are split up by ages with individualize segments for each group.
- ❖ How do schools refer youths to your program?
CFA has many partnerships with social workers, school counselors and juvenile court system. Most the schools are dismissed at between 3:30-4:15pm, is your program evidence based on attendance for the 4 ½ hour or primarily from 5:30-7:00pm, due to kids missing the first hour of your schedule? From 2:30 to 3:00pm is snack time, and 3:00-4:15pm is academic tutorial which should involved the students just coming in from school.
- ❖ How does CFA handle participation of juveniles who want to be in the program and parents who doesn't want to be invested? It would involve having crucial conversations with the parents to develop positive attitudes and relationships. If the child wants to participate in the program, CFA will work with the child to stay with the program. CFA deals with most the schools in the Northeast area. Current funding are from private donations.

CMPD Youthful Diversion Program- Cara Evans-Patterson- Program Manager

Youth Diversion is a first-time offender program that allows youth ages 6-17 to be diverted from the traditional juvenile Justice system for lower level offenses. The goal is to empower the families through education, direction and guidance; to reduce juvenile arrest (20%); to decrease disproportional minority contact (30%) and to decrease school-to-prison pipeline (20%). The benefits provide services to youth, reduce system costs and avoid labeling effect. Cost per child is \$971.00 (\$104,000 +\$31,000 in kind). The school or patrol officer writes a report without juvenile arrest; Diversion Specialist schedules intake at police department or school; youth are assigned to appropriate programs based on assessment; staff and school resource officers will continue providing services to youth for 14 weeks; upon program completion case is closed and if declined sent back to originating officer for disposition; notification of letter of completion or decline is mailed to family. *CMPD Diversion Program is requesting \$104,648 for FY19-20, 140 kids to be served.*

Discussions:

- ❖ What type of training does the officers have to monitor/follow up with the youths. What type of data or contact log is used? As the intake specialist completes their intake they have a log that has an individual service plan for youth.
- ❖ What are the officer's ability to collaborate with school staff? The officers speak with the counselors.

National Youth Development Academy- Antawum Schofield- Board Chair, Erica Strong- Program Manager

The Wraparound Advocacy program provides a safe community-based family-focused program tailored to needs and strengths of the youth and their family to they can live in their home, community, attend school, appear at all the court proceedings and remain arrest free. Focus will be on homeless population. Guiding the program are the core values; Individualized Service Planning, Cultural Competence, Unconditional Care, Partnership with Parents, Focus on Strengths and a No-refuse Intake Policy. *National Youth Development Academy is requesting \$219,680 for FY19-20, 120 kids to be served.*

Discussions:

- ❖ Where is the program being conducted? What is the criteria for the advocates? The program will be at an afterschool program. The advocates should have experience in social work and worked with children in the past.
- ❖ What is the 24hr crisis intervention? Staff will be on call 24hrs, they will have the background in crisis intervention.
- ❖ Who will be on the CFT, who will be making the ISP? Those services will be contracted. Is there any data on homeless kids? There is no data that National Youth Development has on homeless kids.

Tresports-Shavonda McClure-Program Manager, Robert Reynolds-Founder

The Positive Action program is recognized as a research-based proven effective program endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education. What Works Clearinghouse are the only character education program that improves academics and behavior. As an incentive to complete the program and improve school functioning, students are rewarded with athletics. Parents also participate in weekly parenting skill building classes utilizing OJJDP exemplary model Parenting Wisely to promote parenting self-efficacy. All 75 participants for the 21018-2019 referred to Tresports by the Department of Juvenile Justice. 68 students have not re-offended since their Tresports involvement. Participants in Tresports can complete community service hours by doing meaningful activities. Some of these activities include participating in sporting competitions; servicing meals; car washes; scorekeepers. *Tresports Positive Action Program is requesting \$250,050 for FY19-20, 80 kids to be served.*

Discussions: Questions on staffing: Fulltime program manager, intake coordinator, school liaison administrator, assistant instruction leader, (2) instruction leaders, administrative clerk to support an after-school program Monday-Friday, 2-6PM, please justify the staff positions?

S. McClure-Program Manager

R. Reynolds-Intake Coordinator: responsible for doing an intake on each child that comes thru the program; court advocate, attends Child Family Team meetings

School Liaison-new position added this year to build the gap between Tresports and the schools. That person would be in contact with the school counselors, social workers, resource officers.

Instructional assistant and leaders: work in the classroom with the students

Administrative Clerk: answers phones, has contact with the court counselors

The other sources of funding are from donations. Athletic scholarships involves registration fees for the youth to participate in certain leagues. The school liaison makes 2-3 contacts per session with each school, Tresports services approximately 16 schools, the responsibility is to visit the school 2-3 times per session, the sessions are 14 weeks. Since this is the first year, we are trying to see how proactive we can be with the new position and make the most of the role. We are trying to minimize the school suspensions with an advocate at the school that can come and do the crisis piece.

YDI-Afterschool Academy- Darryl Bego- Executive Director

The YDI After School academy seeks to impact the behavioral and social development outcomes of juvenile clients ages 14-17 by providing individualized skills-based training that nurtures pro social decisions-making in their family, peer group, school and community social domains. YDI Career Coaching helps students develop individualized career plans that connect the classroom to the real world and clearly define the importance of staying in school/earning at least a HS diploma. CTE formatted curriculum, project based learning applications. YDI does recreational activities from basketball to games systems for the youths to interact. The average attendance rate for the eleven active juvenile participants in the YDI after School Academy is 88%. YDI program participants has an 73% attendance rate of 89% or higher. The goal of YDI is to cultivate growth in youth and young adults by providing comprehensive programs and supportive services leading to successful educational attainment and employment. *YDI-Afterschool Academy is requesting \$168,706 for FY19-20, 60 kids to be served.*

Discussions: Regarding the contacts per month YDI does 2-3 times per week then a Saturday academy. Summer enrichment programs are provided for those youth who are struggling academically, 30% kids have gotten employment.

- ❖ Are there any certifications that the youth can leave the program with.
We are currently looking to get certified teachers in CTE integration so the youths can acquire the 132 hours requirement to obtain the credit.

Dinner Break at 6:15PM, resume presentations 6:45PM

Life Connections-DASH Mentoring-Alma Moore

This program provides youth and their families with an exceptional natural support mentoring experience. The approach is based on a “youth initiated mentoring” model. Through helping the young person take an inventory of the supportive adults already in their life, the youth builds social capital and learns one of the most valuable life skills of all... how to see out natural supports and positive guidance with their own extended networks. DASH Mentoring is open to any youth, age 7-17, who believes that they can better their best. The program receives referrals from juvenile court, judges, DSS, mental health, schools, or any agency or family who feels that they have a young person who could benefit from such an experience. The youth will work with a mentor coach to identify a self-selected mentor and develop a formalized one-year agreement, providing structure and accountability. *DASH Mentoring is requesting \$146,450 for FY19-20, 50 kids to be served.*

Discussions: Youth mentoring is actively seeking outside funding. Has been involved with JCPC for 16 years.

Mecklenburg County Sheriffs Office- Charles Pearson-Program Manager

Two-day structured program for both juvenile participant and guardians facilitated by certified by therapeutic counselors and a follow up 12 month mentoring component. The target population will be at risk juveniles ages 11-15. Cost per juvenile participants is \$241.00. Group juvenile counseling is a two-day session that will utilize the cognitive behavioral intervention approach with an emphasis on providing participants with tools to address various school, peer and family relationships stressors. Mentoring juvenile participants will be paired with a MCSO mentor, based on shared interests. Mentoring sessions will be conducted monthly for 12 months and will be based in the community. *Mecklenburg County Sheriffs office is requesting \$25,000 for FY19-20, 135 kids to be served.*

Discussions: Juveniles will be referred from school resource officers, schools and parents. The program is based from an existing platform which is called a reality program where parents are the primary source. Jail tours are provided for youth and parents. The program will be at the Stancil Center which is adjacent to the jail.

Scott Stoker, JCPC Area Consultant, stated the Dept of Public Safety will have concerns regarding the funding.

- ❖ For the Cognitive Behavior Intervention is there any specific curriculum identified, most CBI programs are more than 10 hours ?
the curriculum will have to be formulated and finalized with the therapist.

The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club-Tommy Walls-Director of Operations

The Salvation Army Boys and Girls club operates six clubs in Mecklenburg County and 2 clubs in Union County. There are out of school time (OST) programs that are open year round, Monday-Friday, during OST hours (2-7PM). The clubs provide mentoring and prevention programs for at-risk, low income children ages 6-18. Frequency of client contact per month we estimated based on an average of 2 hours daily for 1 child x 5 days/wk x 4 weeks. Average length of stay is 5 days/wk x 50 weeks. *Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club is requesting \$100,000 for FY19-20, 860 kids to be served.*

Discussions: Boys and Girls are requesting funding for a re-entry personnel who will focus on juveniles that are already adjudicated, we would like to serve youths that are already in the justice system, would also like to partnership with group homes.

Life Connections DASH Strengthening Families- Glenn Smith-Program Manager, Jonelle Giulianelli-Coordinator

D-A-S-H- Strengthening Families is open to any family who believes that they can better their best. The program receives referrals from juvenile court, judges, DSS, mental health services, schools, or any agency or family who feels that they have a young person who could benefit from such an experience. Sessions will have classes for both parents and their teens with a session following to practices the concepts:

Childcare/ Babysitting during each session

Graduation facilitated by leaders of the community

Weekly contact by instructors for support

Curriculum researched based and a best practice

7 total sessions offered Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday

Strengthening Families Certified instructors

Bus or Light Rail Passes if needed

Family Meal served before each session

DASH Strengthening Families is requesting \$142,050 for FY19-20, 130 kids to be served.

Discussions: DASH Strengthening Families program serves the whole family unit regardless of how many persons are in the family.

YDI-Family Life Skills Academy- Darryl Bego- Executive Director

YDI Family Life Skills Academy will partner with juvenile court and school resource officers to address the dual need of establishing and /or enhancing the decision-making /social skills of their adolescent juvenile referral ages 12-17 and the parenting/family building skills of their parents. Studies show that teens who have supportive relationships with their parents become less at-risk of delinquency.

YDI establishes a career technical education formatted in-school elective class, afterschool program and/or summer enrichment model that focuses on career planning, academic remediation/enrichment, and 21st century skill attainment in a manner that strategically conjoins the benefits of providing individualized instruction, extending the school day and adult mentoring. Provide parents training opportunities to build their own job readiness/career preparation skills along with parenting training to improve their emotional/social/career advancement needs as well as their ability to better relate/communicate with their youth/children.

YDI Family Life Skills is requesting \$94,802 for FY19-20, 75 kids to be served.

Discussions: YDI has served 7 youths so far, with 4 referrals, the remaining has come from family members. YDI has been communicating to court counselors and other potential providers for referrals.

TYM-SHIFT Restitution- Shannon Chambers-Program Director, Reginald McNeil-Executive Director

SHIFT connects court-involved youth to meaningful community service and restitution opportunities that enhance social skills, facilitate connections with positive adults in the community, promote civic engagement and help participants earn dollars towards victim restitution. Participants ordered to pay monetary restitution may earn credit through completing community service hours at a rate of \$5 per hour. Maximum restitution to be earned is \$500 unless special circumstances warrant alternative arrangement between the DJJ and Program Manager. SHIFT's average cost per child is \$1,075.00 per child which also includes in-kind.

TYM-SHIFT is requesting \$343,970 for FY19-20, 320 kids to be served.

Discussions: SHIFT recidivism rate is 12% they must work with Juvenile Justice to get information. The FY19-20 budget for restitution is \$25,000 which should suffice.

YDI-Juvenile Structured Day- Darryl Bego-Program Manager

YDI-Structured Day Program seeks to provide a highly structured service option to undisciplined juveniles referred by juvenile court who are on long-term suspension and/or who are exhibiting behaviors that might otherwise result in detention placement. The YDI program will be a behavior management model that integrates life-social skill-building and academic support.

YDI-Juvenile Structured Day is requesting \$190,267 for FY19-20, 60 kids to be served.

Discussions:

- ❖ YDI stated they would only use JCPC funds for DJJ youths that are referred. What services are you offering that is different from CMS?

YDI offers a positive alternative, individualized training and instructions on a career level which the youth are not receiving at schools. YDI provides this unique exposure.

When youths go to the suspension center it does count as a suspension, however they can complete their schoolwork, that they would have otherwise missed. When kids are suspended and don't report to a center, the work they missed can't be made up, which is why suspension often leads to failure with high school students. Concerns regarding parents thinking the youth would be receiving credit for attending the center.

Achieving Success on Purpose-Kareem Puranda-Program Manager, Nalo Coban-Executive Director

Achieving Success on Purpose, Inc. was founded to help underserved youth develop the emotional and social intelligence needed to counteract delinquency and refute negative social narratives.

ASOP uses therapeutic services for juvenile offenders targeting substance abuse issues, including chemical dependency alcoholism, and habitual or experimental use of other controlled substances.

These services will be provided in a group setting targeting 40 hours over a 24week period. Treatment is provided by an LPC/LCAS. ASOP also uses interpersonal skill building treatment that focuses on developing social skills which is provided over 16 weeks, targeting 24 hours of training.

Achieving Success on Purpose is requesting \$56,550 for FY19-20, 46 kids to be served

Discussions: Mr. Puranda has his clinical license for 6 years and has worked with children with substance abuse issues.

- ❖ How do you determine if your program is required or a more intensive program? The client would be assessed.

Thompson Residential Program -Jesse Tall- Program Manager

Thompson DACJJ short term residential program will be a trauma informed, short term residential program dedicated to juveniles involved with Mecklenburg County DACJJ. The program will be able to admit Meck County juveniles 24/7365, and in 45-60 days will transition them successfully back in to the community with wraparound support services in place.

Thompson Residential Program is requesting \$350,000 for FY19-20, 64 kids to be served

Discussions: Once the assessments are completed, is a 45 day stay realistic? Thompson would need to reassure that the client is ready to be transitioned, it would have to a collaborated discussion.

- ❖ Concerns were brought up about staffing to monitor the youths, there is a 2:1 ratio, we offer transparency. It comes with programs that are no eject, no reject. Thompson will try to leverage Medicaid cost when necessary.

Committee Reports:

State The legislative committee will soon have a two-year funding stream for JCPC instead of one

County N/A

Monitoring Committee N/A

Risk &Needs Committee N/A

Funding Committee N/A

Bi-Laws Committee N/A

Nominating Committee Needs chair nomination

Brittany Bagues nominated Darrell Gregory for Chair with the stipulation that he will served for one year

Sonya Harper nominated Kevin Poirier for Chair

Program Support Reschedule training on Introduction to Cultural Competency Implied Bias and Challenging conversations on May 20th, lunch will be provided. The training will be from 8:30-4:30pm

Executive Committee Terri stressed the importance of a quorum for May 2nd meeting

Darrell Gregory made a motion to adjourn. Keith Cradle seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:02pm.

Minutes submitted by Elizabeth Swann

